



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# News Release

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**Contact:**

Phil Pitchford

Communications Officer

951-826-5975

[ppitchford@riversideca.gov](mailto:ppitchford@riversideca.gov)

## **City of Riverside Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15-Oct. 15**

*Proclamation, local events celebrate the culture and contributions of Hispanic/Latino residents*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside has proclaimed Sept. 15-Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of all Riverside residents of Hispanic/Latino descent and to recognize the importance of promoting and preserving that heritage.

The Riverside City Council at a recent meeting presented a proclamation in support of Hispanic Heritage Month to a group of organizations that work to advance issues important to the Hispanic community and that also provide cultural offerings with a Hispanic theme for the enjoyment of all Riverside residents.

City Councilman Andy Melendrez read the proclamation at the City Council meeting and noted the long tradition of service and commitment among the city's Hispanic/Latino population.

"Riverside has been my family's home for 105 years, and there are individuals in this room whose families have lived here for 160 years," said Melendrez, who was raised in the Casa Blanca area and whose council ward includes the predominantly Hispanic/Latino area of the Eastside. "Latinos have played a significant role in the growth of the City of Riverside and will continue to do so."

Groups that were represented at the meeting included Latino Network, Spanish Town Heritage Foundation, Mi Familia Vota, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Greater Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Casa Blanca Community Action Group, Eastside Think Tank, Community Settlement House and others.

Mayor Rusty Bailey welcomed the groups and noted that diversity is one of the City of Riverside's core values.

"Thank you, Latino Heritage Month, for bringing that diversity to City Hall tonight," Bailey said.

"And thank you, Councilman Melendrez, for recognizing the month and the activities that will occur."

Upcoming events tied to the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration include:

- “Roots of Our Family,” presented by the Riverside County Mexican American Historical Society, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday (10/1) at the Riverside Art Museum, 3425 Mission Inn Ave. Frank Corona, who taught for 30 years at Riverside Community College, will speak on the contributions made by local residents who showed leadership in their communities.
- Riverside Arts Walk, from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, is a monthly art show that spans the galleries and sidewalks of downtown Riverside, including the Division 9 Gallery, where owner Cosme Cordova has created several Latino-themed art events. His Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration in Riverside is one of the largest in Southern California.
- A reception at UC Riverside on Oct. 9 to discuss local events surrounding “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History,” a nationwide public programming initiative produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). Public events at UCR kick off on Oct. 23 with a screening of the first episode of the “Latino Americans” documentary from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at UCR HUB 355. Discussion of the episode will be facilitated by Dr. Carlos Cortés, UCR Professor Emeritus of History. To RSVP, call 951-827-5226. Events at UCR continue through June, 2016.